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M AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5482
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
COMMISSION GENEVA
EC COLLECTIVE

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USEC

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EFC, EAID, SREF, AF

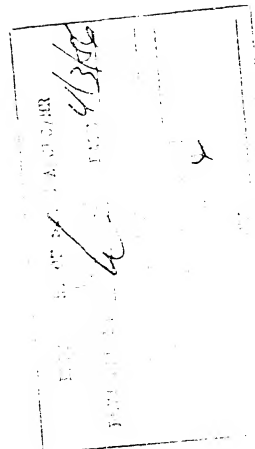
SUBJECT: EC APPROVES AID FOR AFGHAN REFUGEE SELF-HELP
PROJECTS

REF: BRUSSELS 7197

1. THE 1984 EC BUDGET INCLUDES AN ARTICLE (936) WHICH
IS INTENDED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF
REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN A PHASE FOLLOWING THE
IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY. UNDER THIS ARTICLE, THE
COMMISSION HAS ALREADY APPROVED ACTIONS AIMED AT
IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS IN CAMPS OF
AFGHAN REFUGEES SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF BALUCHISTAN
(REFTEL). THE EC HAS JUST ANNOUNCED AN ADDITIONAL
PROGRAM OF 1.2 MILLION ECU (1 ECU EQUALS DOL50.80)
CONSISTING OF TWO MICRO-PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF
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REFUGEES IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE. 30,000
FAMILIES WILL BE ASSISTED TO SET UP KITCHEN GARDENS TO
PRODUCE PART OF THEIR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS. IT IS ALSO
PROPOSED TO INITIATE 10,000 MORE FAMILIES INTO POULTRY
BREEDING TO PRODUCE EGGS FOR THE FAMILY DIET AND TO
INTRODUCE A SMALL CASH TRADE AMONG REFUGEE GROUPS.
DETAILS OF THE AID GRANT ARE CONTAINED IN A COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE WHICH IS REPEATED PARA 2 BELOW.



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2. BEGIN TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE:

THE SITUATION OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN IS CHARACTERIZED MORE AND MORE BY THOSE COMPLEMENTARY NEEDS WHICH HAVE EMERGED SUBSEQUENT TO THE INITIAL PHASE OF THEIR INSTALLATION THERE.

THEIR MEANS OF SUBSISTANCE CONTINUE TO DEPEND ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM BY THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT OR BY BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL EXTERNAL AID.

GIVEN THAT A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION ALLOWING THE REINTEGRATION OF THE REFUGEES IN THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REMAINS A SCANT PERSPECTIVE, THE PRIORITIES FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE MUST BE ORIENTED TOWARDS THE PERSPECTIVE FOR CONSOLIDATION, COMPARED TO THE PRECEDING PHASE.

IN ORDER TO COPE WITH SUCH SITUATIONS, THE 1984 BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES INCLUDES A NEW ARTICLE 936. THIS ARTICLE IS INTENDED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN A PHASE FOLLOWING THE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY. SINCE 1978, THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HAS RECEIVED SOME UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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2,900,000 REFUGEES, OF WHOM ALMOST 80 PERCENT ARE LIVING IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

THE COMMUNITY HAS SO FAR MADE A LARGE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SURVIVAL OF REFUGEE POPULATIONS THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A POLICY OF HUMANITARIAN AID, DIRECTED BOTH THROUGH SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL AID AGENCIES (UNHCR, RED CROSS, ETC.) AND THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS. UNDER ARTICLE 936, THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY APPROVED ACTIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS IN CAMPS SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF BALUCHISTAN.

THE PRESENT PROJECT, FORMING PART OF A PROGRAM OF MICRO-ACTIONS IDENTIFIED, AND IN SOME CASES ALREADY IMPLEMENTED BY THE UNHCR, IS DIRECTED ESSENTIALLY TOWARDS TWO ACTIONS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD PRODUCTION. THE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF 2 MICRO-PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF REFUGEES IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE IN THE FOLLOWING SECTORS:

A) KITCHEN GARDENS

30,000 FAMILIES (210,000 PERSONS APPROXIMATELY) WILL

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E ASSISTED TO SET UP KITCHEN GARDENS TO PRODUCE PART OF
THEIR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS. THEY WILL BE SUPPLIED FREE OF
COST WITH SIMPLE TOOLS, SEEDS, INSECTICIDE AND
FERTILIZER. LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS WILL BE PROVIDED
FOR THE PROJECT. SITES WILL BE SELECTED IN RELATION TO
AVAILABILITY OF WATER. THEY WILL BE, IN GENERAL, IN
VILLAGES NEAR TO PESHAWAR, MARDAN, ABBOTTABAD,
MALAKAND, BUNER, DIZ-SUD, BAJAUR, KOHAT AND HANGU

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B) POULTRY BREEDING

BASED ON PILOT PROJECTS ALREADY CONDUCTED BY HCR IN THE
REGION, IT IS PROPOSED TO INITIATE 10,000 MORE
FAMILIES INTO POULTRY BREEDING TO PRODUCE EGGS FOR THE
FAMILY DIET AND TO INTRODUCE A SMALL CASH TRADE AMONG
REFUGEE GROUPS. END TEXT BARRACLOUGH

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